

The Book of Job

From 'The Bible' – The Old Testament – The Poetical Books

The Book of Job is a part of 'The Poetical Books' in 'The Old Testament' of 'The Holy Bible'.

- We understand from scriptures that inner secrets are not revealed directly but given to mankind in allegory form.
- **It is a wonderful debate between the main character Job, his friends and finally his teacher Eli'hu who gave him real understanding of God.**

We shall now try to understand what lessons this particular section of 'The Holy Bible' has for us:

^{1.1}There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God, and turned away from evil'. ^{1.2}There were born to him seven sons and three daughters.

Explanation: Job was blameless, upright (righteous; honest, responsible and moral), one who feared God and turned away from evil. ***Reference to seven sons and three daughters is our "ten senses"***. All of us are born with these ten children and we play the game of life through them.

- These are ***five senses of perception*** viz. **Ears** – sound; **Skin** – touch; **Eyes** – sight; **Tongue** – taste; **Nose** – smell
- and ***five senses of action*** viz. **Throat** – speech; **Hands** – manual skill; **Legs** – locomotion; **Sacral** – genital organs and the power of reproduction, desire center for acquiring knowledge, sex and material things; **Coccyx** – rectal organ and the power of excretion, center for diffusion of Life Force to outside world through attention and attachment to unnecessary (possessions and things created).

Seven sons also refer to:

- **Uneasiness** (unnatural, alien);
- **Frustration** (misery);
- **Revenge** (unforgiving);
- **Activity** (all actions by thought, speech and deed; full of cares);
- **Flurry** (nervous hurry, agitation);
- **Gaiety** (amusement, merry-making, and mirth), and
- **Sullen Pride** (passively resentful, ill humoured, morose, dismal, ill temper) –

And three daughters as:

- **Discontent** (unsatisfied state of mind, uneasiness of mind, dissatisfaction),
- **Delight** (to please highly, to take great pleasure in), and
- **Thirst** (vehement desire for or of glory, to crave for or after).

We are aliens in this physical world. Our real home is region of LIGHT and TRUTH. There is no change in that region and hence no Illusion. It is a region of Peace and Bliss. Even if we have all the comforts in the physical world we always have that feeling of loneliness and we miss something. ***We are never at ease and our stay in this world is unnatural.***

Job was blessed with all the comforts one could think of but he was not at ease.

- His attention (like all of us) was always divided among his ten children as above.
- *His sense field or say his ten children were not in his control.*
- He was aware of his weakness and he always prayed to God for help. *We shall see this in the text that follows.*

^{1.4}His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each on his day: and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

Explanation: This is what we all do playing at one sense field or the other throughout our lives without realizing our true potential.

- Ears crave for sensual music,
- Skin craves for sensual touch,
- Eyes crave for beautiful sights,
- Tongue craves for delicious food,
- Nose craves for sensual smell,
- Speech craves for self-praise and speaking ill of others,
- Hands crave for soft sensual feel,
- Legs crave to visit sensual places,
- Sex is on our mind and we want to possess everything.

^{1.5}And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts'. Thus Job did continually.

Explanation: Job was **aware** of his weakness at the hands of senses (his ten children) and their regular merry-making, so he always prayed to God for help.

- ***We do not realize our weakness and continue to enjoy sense fields and seek no help from God.***

^{1.6}Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them...^{1.8}And the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?'

^{1.9}Then Satan answered the Lord, 'Does Job fear God for naught? ^{1.10}Hast thou not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the works of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ^{1.11}But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face. ^{1.12}And the Lord said to Satan, 'Behold, all that he has is in your

power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand.’ So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Explanation: This text conveys very important message as under:

1. **First**, all authority lies with God.
2. **Second**, Satan is also a son of God to whom He has entrusted all the Universes created by Him.
3. **Third**, Satan ensures that His Law is upheld at all times and no soul can go back to the Father without payment of its karmic dues.
4. **Fourth**, only the Lord decides which soul He wants to call back to His Kingdom of Bliss and Everlasting Life which is the real heritage of all of us.
5. **Fifth**, Satan has to seek permission of the Lord for testing any soul whom the Lord decides to recall.
6. **Sixth**, all other souls who do not get the “recall” remain on the autonomous system of the Lord governed by His Law and most faithfully supervised by Satan.
7. **Seventh**, this will change our concept of Satan - because in all the Universes created by God, only His will prevails and no one else has any authority over His creation. Satan is not the Tempter, we are ourselves to blame for our weaknesses and it is also one of our weaknesses to put blame on others.

Job had all the qualifications (blameless, upright, fear – awe of God and turned away from evil) which gained him the eligibility for “recall” by the Lord.

- It was one such meeting which Satan had come to attend where a list is given to him of souls authorized by the Lord for recall.
- When Satan saw Job’s name in the list, he was wondering that the Lord has blessed Job with everything one physically desires and given him full protection and if Job remembers Him, it is not a big deal.
- ***He wanted permission to test Job and the Lord authorized him to touch his possessions but Satan was advised not to touch his body.***

When Satan came back he withdrew all the possessions of Job. Finally, **‘a great wind came across the wilderness, and struck four corners of the house, and it fell upon his children, and they were all dead.’**

- Reference to death of children implies that the Lord gave Job inner strength to withdraw from sense fields and that is why the loss of possessions did not affect him as is clear from his reply:

^{1.21}**And he said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’**

^{1.22}**In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.**

Explanation: Job passed his first test. He did not curse the Lord for loss of possessions as was expected by Satan.

- ***Withdrawal of attention from possessions and outside world is the first step towards realization.***

In the next meeting the Lord enquires Satan about Job and how he held fast his integrity to God. ^{2.4}**Then Satan answered the Lord, ‘Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ^{2.5}But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.’ ^{2.6}And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, he is in your power; only spare his life.’**

Explanation: Earlier Satan was not authorized to touch Job’s body and he seeks that sanction now to test Job again for integrity. Satan feels that a man is willing to give away all his possessions if there is any threat to his life and if he is allowed to touch Job’s body, he will definitely curse God. ***The Lord authorizes Satan to touch Job’s body but He refrain’s him from taking his life.***

^{2.7}**So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ^{2.8}And he took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.**

Explanation: Even with all the trouble on his body, Job **does not lose** his balance and still maintains his integrity to God.

- But now another character enters the scene which gives an interesting turn to the story. It is Job’s wife.
- ***She is not happy with the turn of events with her husband.***

^{2.9}**Then his wife said to him, ‘Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God, and die.’ ^{2.10}But he said to her, ‘You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?’ In all this Job did not sin with his lips.**

Explanation: Job is very clear that if he has seen so many happy days in his life with the blessing of God what if he is seeing some days of suffering now.

- This suffering does not call for curse to God.
- ***Job’s integrity to God was unshakeable under trying circumstances.***

But now at this juncture, there is another most interesting turn of events. Job’s loss of possessions and afflictions on body became the talk of the town. His friends came to condole with him and comfort him.

^{2.12}**And when they saw him from afar, they did not recognize him; and they raised their voices and wept; and they rent their robes and sprinkled dust upon their heads toward heaven. ^{2.13}And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.**

Explanation: This part is very important in the sense that Job’s integrity was not shaken when he was alone with his wife but as soon as his friends and other well wishers started weeping and renting in his presence, Job lost his balance.

- ***Note carefully the effect of company ‘within seven days and seven nights’ on a strong-willed person like Job.***

- **A man is known by the company he keeps and for weak-willed persons like us even less than seven days and seven nights are sufficient to influence us.**
- The ways of the world make us weak. We are never on sure ground as long as we ride on the wave of outward current.

Let us see what Job has to say now:

3.1 After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

From here onwards an interesting debate follows between Job and his friends covered in verses 3 to 30. In verse 28 there is interesting question on wisdom and understanding followed by wonderful answer:

28.12 But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?
28.13 Man does not know the way to it and it is not found in the land of the living.
28.20 Whence then comes wisdom? And where is the place of understanding?

28.28 And he said to man, "Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

In verse 31 Job explains his righteousness. The words of Job are ended at verse 31 and their debate does not reach any conclusion as elders were not able to satisfy Job regarding his present condition.

In verse 32 there is an interesting turn of events which changes everything for Job. Since God had already put Job on the recall list, He had sent His representative Eli'hu among Job's friends and he was witness to the entire debate.

He (Eli'hu) was angry at Job because he justified himself rather than God; ^{32.3}he was angry also at Job's three friends because they had found no answer, although they declared Job to be in the wrong.

Eli'hu was younger so he had waited to speak to Job. **^{32.7}Eli'hu said, "Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom." ^{32.8}But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that makes him understand. ^{32.9}It is not the old that are wise, nor the aged that understand what is right.**

Explanation: It is said that knowledge or wisdom of this world is folly with God. Knowledge or wisdom acquired through senses is not real knowledge, it is intellect required to conduct ourselves in this world. Intellect is further regulated by our script for the current life.

- ***Real knowledge or wisdom is intuition, insight without or beyond senses and can be had only with the grace of God.***

^{33.9}You say, I am clean, without transgression; I am pure, and there is no iniquity in me. ^{33.12}Behold, in this you are not right. I will answer you. God is greater than man. ^{33.13}Why do you contend against him, saying, "He will answer none of my words"?

Explanation: Job considered himself righteous as we all do in our own way. *We are not aware of our past record and only on our limited awareness of current life we consider ourselves right.* And if it were so we should be able to experience the Light within us.

- Job had also concluded that God and he are at different levels so direct communication is not possible and hence he cannot know what is right or wrong for him.
- ***Eli'hu makes it clear that God does communicate with man in His own ways but we do not understand or apprehend His message.***

^{33.14}**For God speaks in one way, and in two, though man does not perceive it.** ^{33.15}**In a dream, in a vision of the night...** ^{33.17}**that he may turn man aside from his deed, and cut off pride from man;** ^{33.18}**he keeps back his soul from the Pit, his life from perishing by the sword.**

One way of communicating with God is at the eye center. This option is closed for most of us as we do not withdraw to this center for direct communication with God. But God is always mindful of His children and He does not want us to keep on falling down the bottomless pit.

- This world is like an inverted well and by our conduct we have already fallen to our current level of Earth.
- At levels below eye center only indirect communication is possible.
- *God communicates to us in dream which is semi-conscious state of the body and we do not apprehend His message.*

^{33.19}**Man is also chastened with pain upon his bed, and with continual strife in his bones;** ^{33.20}**so that his life loathes bread, and his appetite dainty food.** ^{33.21}**His flesh is so wasted away that it cannot be seen; and his bones which were not seen stick out.** ^{33.22}**His soul draws near the Pit, and his life to those who bring death.**

Next way of communication by God is disease so that we can check our current activity. Our body has six operative centers with their associated organs to govern all functions.

- For example creative vibratory element ether located at cervical center provides nourishment to medullar center.
- Mental problems imply that ether element is not getting its proper share of life (*pranic*) current as our willful drawing of life force at lower centers is more.
- Problems in the chest imply that creative vibratory element air is being deprived of its proper share of life (*pranic*) current due to our willful drawing of life force at centers below dorsal.

We are subject to triune effect of three attributes:

- Satogun is 'Ho Ja' or 'Be It' of my I which is all unfulfilled desires and unpaid accounts authorized by me in previous lives and now lying as stored karmas.
- My current life is a small part of this stored account and this signal is converted into Light as Rajogun and this Light freezes at various frequencies to appear as Tamogun at each moment of my life.

- ***Each current moment has pre-image in my past and what I do now is pre-image for future.***

For example if someone is born with mental problem, it implies that this particular soul has pre-image of willful drawing of life force at lower centers.

- For current life the message for such soul is to check the drawing of life force at lower centers so that ether element gets its proper share of *pranic* current and this effort will have bearing on future of current life and for successive lives there is a better pre-image in stored account.
- **Earth is a big karmic school and we should learn to recognize our weaknesses and work upon them for better future.**

We fail to apprehend these messages because we have recourse to medicine, which again God has so graciously given to mankind so that His children do not suffer, and once the disease disappears we fail to check our actions.

- **Disease is a communication system of God and we must learn to understand His message.**

Real nature of our soul is inactivity. But here in this physical world we have been involved in activity.

- *We use activity to acquire possessions of the world whereas we should try to look for 'right activity' which will ultimately lead us back to our real home.*
- **What is this 'right activity' has been explained in the following verses:**

^{33.23}**If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him; ^{33.24}and he is gracious to him, and says, "Deliver him from going down into the Pit, I have found a ransom; ^{33.25}let his flesh become fresh with youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigour"; ^{33.26}then man prays to God, and he accepts him, he comes into his presence with joy.**

^{33.27}**He recounts to men his salvation, and he sings before men, and says: "I sinned, and perverted what was right, and it was not requited to me. ^{33.28}He has redeemed my soul from going down into the Pit and my life shall see the light."**

Explanation: This is the most **wonderful** part of the whole chapter. *We all feel that what we do is right activity.*

- But Eli'hu here makes it very clear that **we need a mediator, an angel, a fully realized and duly authorized teacher**, one who has seen God and communicates with Him and at the same time he is at our level because only he can explain to us what is right for us.
- *He should take our responsibility and pray to God for forgiveness on our behalf. And when we perform the 'right activity' as instructed by our teacher, we are accepted by the Father.*

Meeting the Father is such a joyful experience that soul dances and sings and recounts to men that I have been sinning throughout ages with 'wrong activity' considering it to be 'right' but God did not even look at my record.

- **To redeem is to recover by expenditure of effort.** So God has recovered my soul with the effort of 'right activity' as advised by the mediator.
- **Redemption is not possible without a fully realized duly authorized teacher.**

^{33.29}**Behold, God does all these things, twice, three times, with a man, to bring back his soul from the Pit, that he may see the light of life.**

Explanation: God is always mindful of His children but we are not mindful of Him. We have our mind full with desires and cares of the world.

- God is always keen to recall us from this Bottomless Pit so that we can see and directly converse with Him within and recover our lost heritage.

In verse 34 Eli'hu clears another doubt expressed by Job while debating with his friends when he says, ^{34.9}**"It profits a man nothing that he should take delight in God."** Job had declared that he is righteous, innocent and without transgression and he felt that affliction meted out to him is not justified.

- To this Eli'hu advises Job and others that we are judged by our deeds when he says, ^{34.11}**For according to the work of a man he will requite him, and according to his ways he will make it befall him.**

In verses 35 and 36 Eli'hu gives another wonderful advice in reply to Job's complaint when he says, ^{35.3}**"What advantage have I? How am I better off than if I had sinned?"**

- While debating with his friends Job felt that people who are wicked are thriving and they have no need of God whereas he who is without any transgression has been made to suffer. **Job doubts the justice of God.** Commenting on Job's plight Eli'hu says,

^{36.15}**He delivers the afflicted by their affliction, and opens their ear by adversity.**
^{36.16}**He also allured you out of distress into a broad place where there was no cramping, and what was set on you table was fatness.** ^{36.17}**But you are full of the judgment on the wicked; judgment and justice seize you.** ^{36.18}**Beware lest wrath entice you into scoffing; and let not the greatness of the ransom turn you aside.**

Explanation: Right of judgment and justice was not given to man but we keep on demanding judgment and justice for the wicked.

- Eli'hu advises Job that he should get rid of this feeling as he has been accepted by the Master who has assured God that Job will now perform 'right actions'.
- **Right of judgment is only with God and right of justice is with His Karmic Law which works on the principle of uplifting of soul.**

- Once we are accepted by a fully realized duly authorized teacher, we must stop judging others and demand justice for wrong done to us.
- **We must learn to forgive and forget.**

Job does as commanded by his teacher and he seeks full enlightenment and access to Kingdom of God. **All his children are restored to Job.**

- Restoration of children means that previously his senses were controlling Job; therefore, God gave him strength to withdraw from the sense fields (refer to death of his ten children) so that he could gain real knowledge already there within him and all of us but can be had only through a living teacher or guide of our time. But now after enlightenment, Job knew the Law and thus how to use senses properly without getting entrapped again. **This is the meaning of restoration of children.**

Let us pray to God to help us overcome our weaknesses. We need His help to tame our ten children so that we can see and converse with our real Father within like Job.